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United Nations Regional Centre for Peace and Disarmament in Africa

Report of the Secretary-General

Summary

During the period under review, the Centre continued to carry out its programme of activities.

It provided support for the implementation and realization of peace and security-related activities undertaken by African Governments and intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations. Those activities included serving as the operational and policy framework for the Programme for Coordination and Assistance for Security and Development (PCASED).

The Centre provided technical and substantive support to the 11 Governments of the Great Lakes region and the Horn of Africa in the deliberations that led to the adoption of the Nairobi Declaration on Small Arms in March 2000 and of an implementation plan for the Declaration in November 2000.

The Centre also provided technical, logistical and substantive support to the Organization of African Unity in developing and adopting the Bamako Declaration on the Common African Position on Illicit Trafficking in Small Arms.

With the financial support of the Government of Germany, the Centre launched the Fellowship Programme on Peace, Security and Disarmament in Africa.

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The Centre continued to experience considerable financial difficulties owing to the lack of voluntary contributions to fund its operational and administrative costs. It has pursued vigorous fund-raising in an effort to reverse the trend and move forward with its revitalization process since the appointment of its Director in December 1998. A number of States made financial pledges in support of the Centre, but failure or delay in releasing promised funding continued to impair the full functioning of the Centre. The Secretary-General wishes to thank those Member States that have made contributions to the Centre and reiterates his appeal to Member States, as well as to intergovernmental organizations and foundations, to make voluntary contributions to revitalize the Centre and facilitate the implementation of its programme of activities.

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I. Introduction

1. The present report is submitted in pursuance of General Assembly resolution 55/34 D of 20 November 2000, by which the Assembly, inter alia, requested the Secretary-General to report to it at its fifty-sixth session on the activities of the United Nations Regional Centre for Peace and Disarmament in Africa. The report covers the period from July 2000 to June 2001.

2. It is also submitted in pursuance of Assembly resolution 55/34 F of 20 November 2000, entitled "United Nations regional centres for peace and disarmament", by which the Assembly requested the Secretary-General to provide all necessary support, within existing resources, to the regional centres in carrying out their programmes of activities.

II. Functioning of the Centre

3. The Centre was established in 1986 in accordance with General Assembly resolution 40/151 G of 16 December 1985. Its headquarters are located in Lomé, Togo. The Centre functions within the framework of the Department for Disarmament Affairs of the United Nations Secretariat which ensures its supervision and acts as the focal point for coordinating the inputs of the pertinent organs, programmes and agencies of the United Nations system.

4. Since the appointment of the Director of the Centre by the Secretary-General on 1 December 1998, pursuant to the request of the General Assembly in resolution 52/220, the Centre has begun a revitalization process. However, insufficient financial resources have continued to limit the Centre's capacity to deliver its programme of work, which was first presented in February 1999 to the Group of African States of the United Nations.

5. The programme of work of the Centre comprises the following priority areas: support to peace initiatives in Africa; arms limitation and disarmament; and information, research and publications.

III. Objectives and activities of the Centre

6. The Centre continued to carry out its mandate as contained in General Assembly resolution 40/151 G, according to which it will provide, upon request, substantive support for initiatives and other efforts of member States in the African region towards the realization of measures of peace, arms limitation and disarmament in the region, in cooperation with the Organization of African Unity (OAU), and will coordinate the implementation of regional activities in Africa under the United Nations Disarmament Information Programme.

7. During the period under review, the Centre, despite financial constraints, continued to contribute to efforts to promote wider understanding and cooperation among African States in the areas of peace, disarmament and security. It expanded its contacts and cooperation with other relevant United Nations bodies, governmental and non-governmental organizations, foundations and research and academic institutions.

8. In addition, since the inception in March 1999 of the Programme for Coordination and Assistance for Security and Development (PCASED) — the secretariat structure set up by the United Nations to backstop the implementation of the Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS) Moratorium on the Importation, Exportation and Manufacture of Light Weapons in West Africa — the Centre has been providing substantive and political support to PCASED, with its Director serving also as Director of PCASED. In April 2001, the Deputy Director of PCASED became its Acting Director. The Centre continued to provide support to PCASED, as required, in particular with regard to the disarmament and security components of the Programme, to ensure an effective implementation of the Moratorium.

9. At the request of the Governments of Cameroon, Central African Republic and Chad, in July 2000 the Centre conducted fact-finding missions to those three countries with a view to drafting a project document for a "weapons for development programme". The missions set out to gauge the political atmosphere for the execution of such a programme and to identify the main political and technical elements needed. They also sought the collaboration of the respective Governments and the donor community. The missions (Cameroon, 1-5 July; Chad, 17-19 July; Central African Republic, 20-23 July) were funded by the Government of Canada through its High Commission in Yaoundé, Cameroon. They were led by the former OAU Secretary-General William Eteki Mboumoua, who had been the representative of the

Secretary-General of the United Nations to the 1995 Sahara-Sahel Advisory Mission, which had resulted in the declaration in 1998 of the ECOWAS Moratorium.

10. In collaboration with several United Nations agencies, the Centre provided technical and substantive assistance to a mission to Niger, from 23 July to 12 August 2000, in making a preliminary evaluation of the situation in that country, assessing the level and nature of assistance to be provided to the Government in undertaking a weapons collection and disposal programme in the Nguigmi region, and assisting to make the country's National Commission for the Fight Against the Proliferation of Small Arms more effective. The mission also considered Niger's plans to destroy unwanted weapons collected within the framework of the peace accords and post-conflict peace-building and consolidation efforts, following the Tuareg rebellion in the northern part of the country.

11. In July 2000, the Centre was joined by the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF), the Government of Togo and the OAU General Secretariat in organizing, on the sidelines of the summit of OAU Heads of State and Government, a child soldier and small arms exhibit, which was inaugurated on 11 July 2000 by OAU Secretary-General Salim Ahmed Salim. The exhibit remained on display for a fortnight after the closure of the summit and was viewed by more than 10,000 people, among them President of Mali Alpha Oumar Konare, and some 2,000 pupils and students in the Lomé area. Media coverage of the event was elaborate and included wire coverage by the best known news agencies (Agence France Presse, Associated Press, PANA, Reuters, Xinhua, etc.), news reports by international radio stations (Africa Number One, British Broadcasting Corporation, Deutsche Welle, Radio France International, Voice of America etc.) and features by the most reputed televised news footage services (Canal France International, RFO-AITV, Visnews London etc.). Such wide coverage made it possible for several television stations in the region to broadcast the exhibit to millions of Africans in their homes.

12. A special edition of *African Peace Bulletin*, on the phenomenon of child soldiers, small arms and children caught in armed conflict, and the Centre's flyer were issued and widely disseminated to media organizations and professionals, among others. A résumé of the two publications, issued in English and French and later translated into Arabic and Portuguese, was also provided to the OAU secretariat for display at the closed session of Heads of State and Government of OAU.

13. Within the framework of the technical and substantive support it provides to PCASED and to other arms control and limitation initiatives on the continent, the Centre organized, in collaboration with the ECOWAS secretariat, a workshop, held from 24 to 30 August 2000, which aimed to develop a curriculum for the training of security forces, customs, police, military and paramilitary forces on the control of small arms.

14. On 25 September 2000, the Centre participated in the ceremonial destruction of surplus and unwanted weapons collected during the peace process in Niger at a weapons bonfire "Flame of peace", held in Agadez.

15. The Centre provided technical support to the meeting of experts on the illicit proliferation of and trafficking in small arms in the 10 countries of the Great Lakes region and the Horn of Africa (Nairobi, Kenya, 5-10 November 2000). The meeting was held as a follow-up to the March 2000 conference of ministers of those regions which adopted the Nairobi Declaration on Small Arms, calling, among others, on the United Nations to conduct an in-depth study on the magnitude and scope of the small arms problem in that part of the continent. The meeting adopted an implementation plan for the Nairobi Declaration and reiterated the call for the Regional Centre to undertake the study. The meeting also called on the Regional Centre to support the capacities in those regions to manage, control, collect and destroy surplus, unwanted, unauthorized, forfeited, surrendered or seized small arms.

16. The Centre provided technical support and expertise in disarmament matters to OAU in organizing the Ministerial Conference on Small Arms (Bamako, Mali, 28 November to 1 December 2000). It contributed to formulating and finalizing the Bamako Declaration on the Common African Position on Illicit Trafficking in Small Arms, adopted by the Conference.

17. The Centre visited Guinea, at the request of the Government, within the framework of preventing conflicts and promoting security and peace initiatives. During the visit, the Director of the Centre officially inaugurated the National Commission for the Fight Against the Proliferation of Light Weapons in Guinea. The Centre also held discussions on the possibility of the Government's providing support for and hosting a

pilot training course for trainers in the control of small arms and light weapons, laying the foundation for a project on preventive disarmament among youth.

18. Together with the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) and the Departments of Political Affairs and of Disarmament Affairs of the United Nations Secretariat, the Centre participated in and provided technical support to the final part of the assessment mission on small arms in Niger. The objective of the mission was to develop a project which would highlight concrete measures to curb the proliferation of small arms in Niger and to propose a development pilot project entitled "Arms for development" in the Nguigmi region.

19. The Centre provided technical and substantive support within the framework of its involvement in PCASED to experts from ECOWAS and the Department of Economic and Social Affairs of the United Nations Secretariat on 20-22 December 2000 to finalize the guidelines for the setting-up and the functioning of national commissions for the fight against the proliferation of small arms, to be established in all ECOWAS countries in support of the Moratorium. The Centre then backstopped the efforts of the missions dispatched to Benin, Ghana, Liberia, Mali, Nigeria, Sierra Leone and Togo to follow up on the establishment of those commissions.

20. In consultation with the National Assembly of Togo, the Centre is initiating members of the Parliament's Defence Committee in the techniques of civilian control of military expenses and improving civil/military relations. The key objective is to assist interested African Governments in maintaining a zero-growth rate for military budgets and to cut military spending to 1.5 per cent of GNP, as proposed by the United Nations Secretary-General in his report on the causes of conflicts in Africa.

21. The Centre assisted the Government of Mali in the organization, from 13 to 18 February 2001, of a seminar entitled "Universalization and implementation of the Ottawa Convention on Landmines in Africa". The Centre presented a paper, "Universalité et renforcement de la Convention d'Ottawa: le role de l'Afrique".

22. During the period under review, the Centre joined other United Nations officials on the inter-agency mission that was dispatched to Côte d'Ivoire, Gambia, Ghana, Guinea, Guinea-Bissau, Mali, Nigeria, Senegal, Sierra Leone and Togo, at the recommendation of the Security Council on a United Nations integrated and global approach to peace, security and development in West Africa. The Centre prepared a briefing paper for the mission on the theme "Peace, stability, security and disarmament" in the subregion.

23. Within the framework of the project "Routes and caches of weapons" funded by the Swiss Government, the Centre visited Djibouti and Kenya to discuss with those Governments the problems posed by small arms proliferation in the Horn of Africa and the Great Lakes region. Discussions were also held with the secretariat of the Inter-Governmental Agency for Development (IGAD) to explore the support and collaboration which the Centre might provide to IGAD in the areas of peace, security, disarmament and development.

A. Seminars, conferences and consciousness-raising

24. The Centre provided technical and substantive support to a group of African and Europe-based civil society organizations seeking practical ways to stop the proliferation and rampant use in violent conflicts of mercenaries and private militias and the privatization of security in the region, at the Methodological Planning Workshop on Causes, Consequences and Responses to Private Intervention in Armed Conflicts in Africa (Monrovia, Liberia, 27 July to 1 August 2000). The Workshop explored various forms of responses to the problem (including local field engagement and research) and identified potential projects and actions capable of advancing conflict resolution in the region. The organizations involved included the Centre for Democratic Empowerment (Liberia), Campaign for Good Governance (Sierra Leone), ECOWAS (West Africa), International Alert (United Kingdom), BASIC (United Kingdom), the Centre for Democracy and Development (United Kingdom), the United Nations Peace-building Support Office in Liberia (UNOL) and the African Strategic Peace Research Group (Nigeria).

25. In celebration of Disarmament Week (24-31 October 2000), the Centre organized a series of activities in Lomé. They included an "Open Doors Day" (25 October 2000); a "simulation exercise" (27 October 2000), simulating a session of the General Assembly of the United Nations convened to discuss measures to control and curb the proliferation and misuse of small arms and light weapons in Africa; and screening of the film "Armed to the Teeth".

26. As part of its advocacy and outreach programme, the Centre inaugurated a new activity at the beginning of 2001: a monthly briefing on disarmament, peace and security issues in Africa, known as "Disarmament Forum", which meets every last Tuesday of the month. Inaugurated on 30 January 2001 by the Prime Minister of Togo, the Forum is open to the diplomatic corps, civil society organizations active in disarmament issues, research institutions and universities, and provides an opportunity for various actors to suggest practical solutions to the numerous security-related problems with which the continent is confronted. Some of the topics discussed at recent Forums included "Crisis in Central Africa: causes, violence, actors, stakes and perspectives", "The future of peace-keeping in Africa", "Traditional methods of conflict prevention, management and resolution in Africa: The case of the Great Lakes region" and "Embargoes and other sanctions as conflict prevention measures in Africa".

27. The Centre provided its expertise to a meeting of governmental experts from the Horn of Africa and the Great Lakes region (Uganda, 11-12 June 2001). The meeting was convened to consider the possibilities for the 11 countries signatories to the Nairobi Declaration on Small Arms to set up practical mechanisms for promoting information-sharing and exchange, cooperation on military issues, fighting cross-border crime and small arms proliferation through a firearms centre. The Centre presented an in-depth paper at the meeting, entitled "The United Nations Regional Centre's experiences with practical disarmament programmes in West Africa".

B. Joint projects, cooperation and partnerships

28. The Centre continued to build partnerships with other organizations working on similar issues on the continent, including the Institute of Strategic Studies in South Africa and the African Leadership Forum in Nigeria. Potential areas of collaboration include exchange of staff, joint publications, and joint research programmes.

29. The Centre developed ties and discussed the possibilities of collaboration on research projects with several institutions based in France. The organizations contacted were Institut français des relations internationales (IFRI), based in Paris, and Centre d'études d'Afrique noire (CEAN), based in Bordeaux.

30. Discussions were also held with the newly established Geneva Centre for the Democratization of Armed Forces (CDAF) on possibilities for cooperation and joint projects. On 14 May 2001, the Director of the Centre and his associate expert visited CDAF and continued discussions on practical ways of cooperating in strengthening civil/military relations for durable peace and security in Africa.

C. Research, information and publications

31. In May 2001, the Centre officially launched the Fellowship Programme on Peace, Security and Disarmament in Africa, with the financial support of the Government of Germany. Each year the Programme will permit three research fellows to conduct research on a topic of their choice in the field of peace, security and disarmament in the African region. Fellows, who should be predominantly post-graduate students, will be selected by an international committee set up for the purpose and comprising the following organizations and institutions: OAU, the Council for the Development of Social Science Research in Africa, the United Nations Institute for Disarmament Research, the International Relations Institute of Cameroon, the Southern African Political and Economic Monthly, the Centre d'études d'Afrique noire, the Bonn International Center for Conversion, the University of Benin, the Embassy of the Federal Republic of Germany in Togo, and the United Nations Regional Centre for Peace and Disarmament in Africa.

32. The three pioneer Fellows on the programme — Ms. Anne W. Kamau (Kenya), Ms. Rose Mbumba Mpisi (Democratic Republic of the Congo) and Mr. Terry Crawford-Browne (South Africa) — completed a two-month stay at the Centre to finalize their research on three topics, respectively: "Disarmament as a development issue"; "Empowerment of civil society for conflict resolution in Africa"; and the "Socio-economic benefits of constitutional demilitarization in South Africa, to include the constitutional abolition of the Army, Navy and Air Force, and their replacement by a civilian police service, a civilian Coast Guard and a civil defence service".

33. During the period under review, the Centre completed two research papers, entitled "Arms embargoes in Africa since 1960", as part of its contribution to efforts to make United Nations sanctions and embargoes smarter, and "Small arms: impact on human security in Africa in the 1990s". The

publication of the second research paper was made possible by a financial contribution from the Government of Canada.

34. The Centre published a book, *Small Arms and Their Impact on Human Security in Africa*. The official launching of the book is being timed to coincide with the July 2001 United Nations Conference on the Illicit Trade in Small Arms and Light Weapons in All Its Aspects.

35. The Centre presented a paper, entitled "The moratorium on light weapons in West Africa and the experiences of the United Nations Regional Centre with practical disarmament measures in Africa", to a ministerial conference hosted by Canada (Winnipeg, 12-17 September 2000), which set out to build on the success of the West African conference on the same theme (Accra, Ghana, April 2000).

36. The Centre continued to publish and to distribute its quarterly bilingual newsletter, *African Peace Bulletin*, which focuses on relevant developments in the field of peace, security and disarmament and related issues, mainly on the African continent. In the context of its advocacy and outreach programme, the Centre organized several outdoor events, including a concert featuring practical disarmament in Africa and a child soldier and small arms exhibit. It also completed work on the conception, design and construction of a regularly updated Internet web site — www.unrec.org — focusing on the same issues as the *African Peace Bulletin*.

D. Working with civil society to advance peace and disarmament initiatives

37. The Centre provided assistance and technical support to the launching of a continent-wide campaign for peace, engineered by the Togo-based organization Caravane africaine de la paix, and to the holding in Togo of an annual festival of Young Men's Christian Associations (YMCA), with members from 15 African countries, which focused on ways and means of advancing peace, security, disarmament and justice in Africa.

38. The Centre organized the All-Africa Civil Society Consultation on Small Arms (Togo, 7-9 December 2000), in collaboration with the Norwegian Initiative for Small Arms Transfers (NISAT), Oxfam GB, and the Norwegian Red Cross. More than 100 participants from civil society organizations of 21 African countries, the OAU secretariat, government representatives and the diplomatic corps in Lomé participated in the Consultation. The key objective was to formulate an action plan for African civil society in support of the Bamako Declaration. Participants commended the initiative of the Centre and recommended that it should organize follow-up training courses for civil society organizations, in cooperation with the co-organizers of the Consultation.

39. The Centre supported efforts by civil society organizations to involve African parliamentarians more closely in the promotion of peace, security and disarmament at the conference "Stability, Security, Development and Cooperation", organized by the African Leadership Forum (ALF). The conference provided a chance to raise awareness among African legislators of the problems posed by small arms proliferation and misuse in Africa and to urge them to initiate legislation to stem proliferation, enhance control and curb illicit trafficking.

40. The Centre made a presentation to a conference organized by the Government of the Netherlands (The Hague, 6-12 March 2001), on the theme "Towards the 2001 Conference and beyond: a critical role for civil society", to help articulate a role for non-governmental organizations in the fight against illicit trafficking in small arms and light weapons. The conference agreed to a possible action plan for civil society applicable within the framework of the recommendations of the United Nations Conference on the Illicit Trade in Small Arms and Light Weapons in All Its Aspects. In the same vein, the Director of the Centre made a presentation, "ECOWAS Moratorium: prospects for renewal", to a workshop on small arms, organized by the Norwegian Institute of International Affairs (9-10 May 2001).

41. The Centre held a working session with Togo's Minister of Defence on 13 April 2001 to discuss possible contents of a code of conduct for armed and security forces in Africa.

IV. Staffing, financing and administration

42. Persistent financial problems do not allow the Centre to operate at full scale to implement its work programme. Its functioning is also hampered by a lack of resources to cover operational costs. It therefore,

continues to operate with a skeleton local staff at the General Service level.

43. During the period under review, the Centre benefited from generous financial support from the Governments of Belgium and Switzerland and from the Norwegian Initiative on Small Arms Transfers (NISAT), which made it possible for the Centre to recruit additional staff to assist in specific projects. Those include an associate expert funded by the Government of Belgium for a period of two years to work on the Centre's peace-building programmes; a consultant funded by NISAT for one year to assist the Centre in efforts to campaign for peace and control and limitation of small arms and light weapons in Africa; and a consultant funded by the Government of Switzerland, also for one year, to work on the project "Routes and caches of illicit weapons in Africa".

44. The Director has pursued fund-raising activities, undertaking a series of visits to Belgium, Cameroon, Canada, France, Japan, Nigeria, Norway, South Africa and Switzerland, and has kept in touch with a number of countries and institutions on this matter. Contacts have been sustained with the embassies of donor countries in Lomé. During the reporting period, voluntary contributions in the amount of $144,505 were received. In addition, the Government of Japan has pledged support.

45. The Secretary-General wishes to express his gratitude to the Governments of Algeria, Belgium, China, France, Germany, Mauritius and Switzerland and to the Norwegian Red Cross for their generous support and to the Government of Togo, the host country, for its overall support of the Centre. The status of the Trust Fund for the Centre covering the year 2000 appears in the annex to the present report.

46. Owing to the ongoing financial situation of the Centre, the Secretary-General strongly supports and reiterates the appeals made by the General Assembly to Member States and governmental, intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations and individuals to provide voluntary contributions that would make possible the full and effective operation of the Centre.

Annex

Status of the Trust Fund for the United Nations Regional Centre for Peace and Disarmament in Africa for the year 2000

	United States dollars
Fund balance, 31 December 1999	51 017
Income, 1 January-31 December 2000	
Voluntary contributions[a]	241 348
Interest income	12 568
Miscellaneous income	22 546
Subtotal	**276 462**
Expenditures, 1 January-31 December 2000	198 730
Fund balance, 31 December 2000	**128 749**

Note: This information is based on the financial statement for the period 1 January to 31 December 2000. During the period from 1 January to 30 June 2001, additional contributions totalling $78,338 were received from China ($10,000) and France ($68,338).

[a] Algeria ($5,000), Canada ($6,755), France ($66,325), Germany ($21,749), Mauritius ($5,000), Switzerland ($56,500) and the Norwegian Red Cross ($79,978).